

Keep up the good work.
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University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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The Gentlemen complain.
If Bulletin will amend,
will Walsh Hall amend?

Catholic Culture?

From time to time actors, lecturers and musicians have left performances in Washington Hall dropping remarks about their audience which would be too embarrassing to print. The observations were, of course, about the minority-- about the minority that belongs not in college. Too often Catholic collegians show far less polish than the students of secular institutes of higher learning. It is not a good advertisement. And something ought to be done about it by the students themselves.

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When University authorities "clamp" down on this and that abuse, the psychological reaction in most children of Adam and Eve is to keep doing that sort of thing. Perhaps that is why from one year to another you continue to hear those juvenile whistles and girlish cackles in Washington Hall. But if the majority of the students themselves, who don't "go" for the rough-house stuff and the barbaric babooneries of the evil-minded few, devised ways and means of putting a stop to uncivilized campus nonsense, the good earth hereabouts and the minds and hearts of the majority would be fit soil for the growth of true Catholic culture.

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When ex-President Neilson of Smith College gave his inaugural address in 1918, he spoke these words of wisdom which might help Notre Dame's students of good will and gentlemen's manners to work out a feasible plan for uprooting boorishness from Our Lady's campus:

It is a betrayal of our trust and a cheating of those who have a right to be here to allow our classrooms to be cluttered up by the unfit, to tolerate in the academic community those whose presence lowers the moral tone or reduces the intellectual life to mediocrity.

Later in the same address, Dr. Neilson

continued as follows:

The college as it might be.....A warm-blooded living organism in which life currents flow at the pumping of a strong and eager heart, reaching the last capillary in the last extremity. Such a college will have unity which does not crush individuality, teamwork without servility, mutual regard without obsequiousness, forbearance without denial of candor. In such a college jealousies will be overtopped by the excitements of learning and teaching, and personal piques will be devoured by the enthusiasm of common tasks.

Is it too much to hope that a Catholic undergraduate group should wholeheartedly work toward such a natural ideal? Away, then, with every indication that some of Notre Dame's students are lacking in culture.

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But speaking of culture, confuse it not with mere acumen of intellect or external finesse in matters of etiquette. Essentially, culture resides in the will. It is good will, it is love for the good things of life, it is good reading, good writing, good conversation, good living. It is not merely good taste nor contact with the best things in this life. These things all must spring from a sturdy mind and a pure heart. It's in the soul, not on the lips, in the marrow of one's bones not in his books that you find a man's culture. What he is, what he does; not what he has and whom he consorts with tell you whether he is cultured or not. Not numbered among the cultured are the vulgar and the boring.

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How sad to have to remind Catholic collegemen about culture, especially since this natural culture, so worthwhile attaining, is only the foundation of Catholic culture. Catholic culture is not humanistic, but, by privilege, divine.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) grandfather of Joe Ryan (How.); uncle of Chuck Ziebarth (Dil); (Ill) Daniel J. O'Connor, '06, past pres. Alum. Asso. (at Mayo's); father of Adrian Cruise (Jal) friend of Bill Foley (Dil); grandfather of Mike Fisch (Z) Alex Wazicki; 2 thanksgivings.